

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06037 091102Z
ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3008
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6037

UNESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG PINR IS UNESCO
SUBJ: UNESCO: 104TH EXECUTIVE BOARD-BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
ON ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE EMILE NAJAR

REF.: PARIS 14078

1. AMBASSADOR EMILE AMIEL NAJAR WAS BORN IN CAIRO IN 1912. HE STUDIED LAW AT THE SORBONNE IN PARIS AND IN 1943 BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE ZIONIST FEDERATION OF EGYPT. HE EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL IN 1947 AND JOINED THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1952 AT WHICH TIME HE BECAME DIRECTOR OF THE MFA'S DIVISION OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. IN 1956 HE SERVED AS ISRAELI OBSERVER TO THE SUEZ CONFERENCE IN LONDON. FROM 1957-1958 HE SERVED AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. EMILE NAJAR HAS SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG, ITALY, AND MALTA AND HAS BEEN ON MANY OCCASIONS A MEMBER OF THE ISRAELI DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. HE IS FAMILIAR WITH THE INTRICACIES OF UN AFFAIRS AND IS AN INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN AUTHORITY ON LAW OF THE SEA QUESTIONS WHO SERVED AS ISRAEL'S DELEGATE TO THE LAW
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 06037 091102Z

OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. NAJAR BELONGS TO A PROMINENT SEPHARDI FAMILY WHICH FORMERLY HAD EXTENSIVE CONNECTIONS IN MANY ARAB COUNTRIES AS WELL AS IN WESTERN EUROPE. THIS BACKGROUND HAS FACILITATED HIS INVOLVEMENT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN CONFIDENTIAL ISRAELI CONTACTS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES.

2. NAJAR IS HIGHLY THOUGHT OF AT THE MFA. HE RETIRED FROM THE FOREIGN SERVICE AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, BUT WAS RECENTLY RECALLED TO HEAD ISRAEL'S DELEGATION TO UNESCO. THE MFA APPARENTLY PERCEIVED A CLEAR NEED FOR NAJAR'S LEGAL EXPERTISE AND VAST PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE INTRICACIES OF UN POLITICS IN DEALING WITH THE INCREASINGLY COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF UNESCO. LEWIS

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